

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez (CA-47) today voted to strengthen and improve America’s intelligence and cybersecurity capabilities. H.R. 2701, the Intelligence Authorization Act, would increase funding for human intelligence collection and counterterrorism activities – vital security tools that have been under-funded in recent years.

“As Chair of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Terrorism, Unconventional Threats and Capabilities, I know how important it is to have a strong, viable intelligence community,” said Rep. Sanchez. “Our intelligence officials are the best in the world, but I fear the quality of their work could be compromised without a renewed commitment to their operations. This bill fixes that problem, giving our intelligence community the tools and training it needs to continue protecting our country from harm.”

The Intelligence Authorization Act boosts funding for language programs that are crucial to gathering intelligence abroad and strengthens recruitment efforts to attract the best possible talent. It also contains critical provisions to enhance the nation’s cybersecurity capabilities and to better fight the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction around the world. The bill increases funding for intelligence efforts in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan, and provides resources to address emerging national security issues in places like Africa and Latin America.

H.R. 2701 also makes important changes to the oversight of covert actions, creating an Inspector General for the intelligence community and requiring that IG to audit each covert action. It reforms the process for notifying the intelligence committee of covert actions so Congress can perform its oversight role more effectively, prohibits private contractors from conducting interrogations of detainees in CIA custody, and requires that all detainee interrogations be videotaped.

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